

# Legends of Emeralds

by Edmund Russell



**I** SALUTE thee, O Emerald, magic gem! cries Michelet to this souvenir of green prairies, ocean depths and clear-cleft wells of peaceful power.

It was occult to all ancient peoples. It shone midst the verberna leaves of the crowns of Druid priestesses, in the tangle of dark hair, above the unutterable yearning of their eyes of splendor, as never to-day in the conventional correctness of machine-made setting.

Color of universal harmony; emblem of hope, joy, abundance; it cured epilepsy, eased the pangs of childbirth and brought sleep to tired brains. It healed all ocular diseases. Indeed, so pure was its power that when the eye of a serpent met the eye of an emerald the serpent became immediately blind, or perhaps had to wear glasses like the cobra the rest of his life. Seeresses of old used to hold an emerald beneath their tongues so the incoming wave of psychic vibration might be met by its force and not utterly overwhelm them.

Light seems to traverse, to linger and caress this lovely stone, whilst the diamond seems to turn back the reflection so violently it strikes one almost as a blow.

Vert-de-pre—the emerald is sister



JEWEL WITH COAT OF EMERALD

THE EMERALD EMBLEM OF HOPE, JOY AND ABUNDANCE

IT SHONE MIDST THE VERBERNA LEAVES OF THE CROWNS OF DRUID PRIESTESSES

to the leaves and, like the sapphire, is best by day and shrinks from artificial light. Consecrated to the month of May, it is said to symbolize the charity that springs from a well of goodness in the heart and its color, nature's favorite, to speak of hope and new spiritual birth.

No other gem holds as many fascinating legends or haunting historical memories; they go back to immemorial time when the Incas worshiped the goddess Esmerelda in the person of a stone as big as an ostrich egg and offered other emeralds to consort with it, so that the Spaniards were able to seize the votive treasures of centuries. The five emeralds which Cortez stole from the crown of Montezuma were of enormous size, rough-cut in the form of sacred symbols of sex worship. Even Cortez was so enamored of them that he refused to sell them to the empress and so lost favor at court.

There is still preserved at Rome the emerald sent to the pope by Peru after the Catholic conquest of that country and the name "Emerald Isle," given to Ireland, was from a magnificent ring sent by Pope Adrian to Henry II. when he took dominion over it.

The Orientals have always known how to handle this wonderful crystal, setting in peacock-toned embroidery of enamel, keeping its irregularities of form, perhaps simply smoothing the edges so as to preserve as much color as possible. Indian princes often wear emerald rings fully two inches across. In the shrine of the Great Tooth temple of Kandy, Ceylon, there is a Buddha of fabulous value carved from a single gem. I have seen in the treasury of the sultan of Turkey whole robes encrusted with emeralds, with superb single stones of the purest water set in the handles of scimitars. There were prayers in the interior of the Taj Mahal spelled in emeralds before the British soldiers dug them out with their knives.

We read of Nero viewing the games "men played with death, where death must win" through emerald eyelids. Caligula's consort leaned from the verd-antique balconies of the golden hill adorned with two millions of our dollars' worth of emeralds and pearls.

Napoleon wore through some of his bloodiest battles the great emerald torn from the throat of Charlemagne when they dared to disturb his slumber and to this taleman the Man of Destiny ascribed his power to sleep at will and as long or little as he would. When Isabeau was to paint the last portrait of Josephine, she said: "Paint me in emeralds to say that my sorrow will be ever green, but surround them with diamonds to portray the undying purity of my love."

Of course royal people hold the finest examples of this gem, which, in conjunction with pearls, they prefer to all others. Queen Isabella was very proud of her carved emeralds, but carving destroys the greatest beauty of the stone, the perfect limpidity of its color. An Italian princess possesses the most famous parure in Europe, enhancing her patrician beauty as she stands against the faded green tapestries, the ornate and malachite of her Roman palace—a never-to-be-forgotten picture.

body and soul expression spoiled by the self-consciousness of trying to hold together so many unrelated parts.

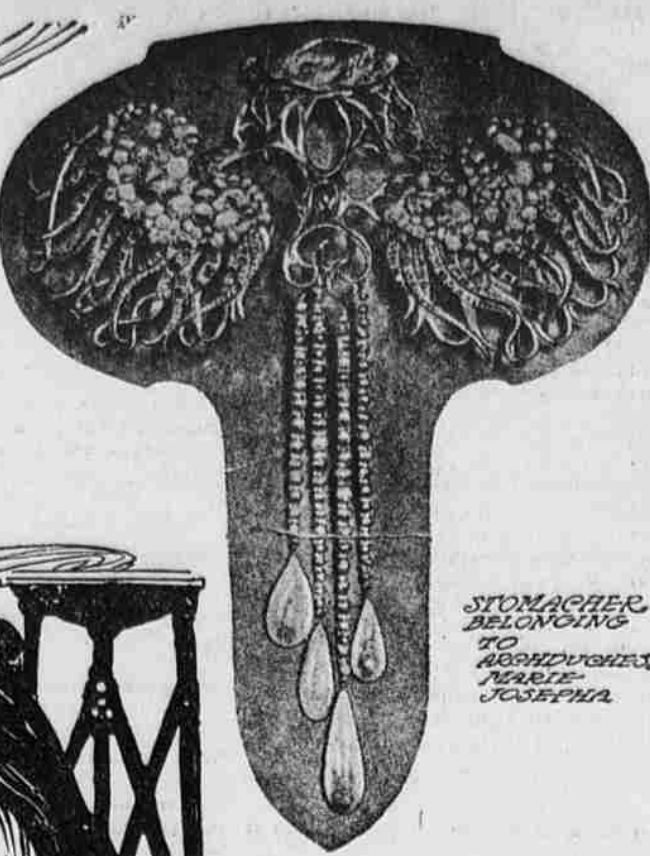
The most splendid regalia at the Viennese court is that of the archduchess Marie Josepha, wife of Duke Otho. She has just had them set in a new and massive design by the court jeweler. A stomacher we give as illustration. The large emeralds are so arranged that they can be detached and other colored stones clasped in the same settings; thus the archduchess has rubies, sapphire, pink topaz and immense diamonds of the same size, so she may change to suit her toilets. Also all the sprays can be taken to pieces and worn as smaller ornaments or massed together in different designs. This fashion was introduced by the Empress Elizabeth, who delighted in such combination and would cover the whole front of a court garment with complex design. Such may be done with a modern artistic design if made by a special jeweler, and is convenient to those who may only possess a few pieces. Thus a girdle may separate into brooch, pendant, cloak clasp, necklace, at will.

There is a vaporous blonde actress at the Comedie Francaise whose favorite color is sky blue, which she clasps with a girdle of emeralds so valuable that a big policeman never loses sight of her when wearing it on the stage or off. This appreciation of the charm of related blue and green and violet is comparatively new to us, though always known to the orient and to antiquity.

Emeralds are usually cut in simpler form than diamonds and the corundum, or ruby, family of gems. The table cut, square or oblong, with large, flat face and beveled edges, the lower surface in long, narrow facets. Their value depends upon the tone, transparency and especially in the western world the flawlessness of the gem, which, if of dark velvet depth may even be worth more than the diamond, though the price put upon all expensive gems by the leading American jewelers is entirely fictitious. The "flawless emerald" has become a classic comparison for perfection, as nearly every stone is full of little rifts or clouds or discolorations that make it unfit for the split superlatives of modern taste; to the oriental mind nothing is more beautiful than beauty; each stone is but a note of color in a general harmony and the eastern jeweler has no prejudice against "flaws" or "off colors" and finds worthy and dignified place for many a gem that our jewel butchers would incontinently cast off.

At a recent dinner I noted the chain on a beautiful arm next to me. Heavy links of bright polished gold, carrying with little relation five great cabochon emeralds, divided by four large diamonds, soldered on to them.

If the diamonds had been replaced with turquoise or violet-beryls or olivines or peacock opals, their great value would have sufficed to pay for some real art work in enamel or design. Then the emeralds themselves were so "perfectly matched" they might as well have been bits of glass. So equal in tone all mysterious magic gone—no thought of Druid forehead or imprisoned spring—right from the factory these looked



STOMACHER BELONGING TO ARCHDUCHESS MARIE-JOSEPHA

to be. One thought of the enormous waste in cutting them all the same shape. Each should have been of slightly different form, their setting following as though the artist were loath to lose any tithe of beauty; the edges should show the touch of his creative hand, perhaps even the hammer marks. Each link speaks individual strength and feeling in its twist, and should be encrusted with grains of gold, beads of enamel or tiny gems, and some continuous design run even on the inside.

For those who are really rich, yet may have but little money, there are other beautiful green gems.

The peridot should be given sacred honors, for it is the only gem that has ever been known to fall from heaven, having occasionally been found in those mysterious masses called aerolites.

Like some rare sea thing in sea tones is the pendant of peridots, olivines, aquamarines and violet tinted pearls. Half lost in gauzes, it would encourage and reveal a personality that would be completely extinguished by

the diamonds of the archduchess.

Don't value the emerald on account of its commercial value but on account of the matchless value of its tone in relation to other tones. Sometimes a touch of enamel, or chrysoprase or turquoise does as well. If you can attain to its glory, it is a great privilege to wear it with other things that show your right to such beauty, but not simply in display, as if bidding for the prize of a gem show.

## LONDON'S OLD ROMAN WALL

Visitors to London whose tastes lie in the direction of exploring ancient remains will be gratified to learn that the Society of Antiquaries has succeeded in securing the preservation of a very fine fragment of the great Roman wall around London, which has just been laid bare, a London letter to the New York Sun says. From time to time portions of the great structure, the external wall of defense built about the city in the fourth or fifth century, have been uncovered in digging foundations while rebuilding streets or houses. These have rarely escaped demolition. The latest discovery is to be preserved for the benefit of the public.

It is situated near Newgate street, close to a new annex of the general postoffice. The fragment, which is that of a great curved bastion, is 50 feet long, 20 feet high and 8 feet wide. The present summit lies several feet below the surface of the ground. The whole is in a wonderful state of preservation.

The material is that known as "Kentish rag," supported by heavy Roman bricks and showing clearly the characteristic layers or bands of red tiles, such as may be seen at Burgh castle, Pevensey and Richborough. The interesting relic is to be built around, so that it will lie in a cave which may be entered by stairs and inspected by artificial light. The line of the great Roman wall is well known and much of it undoubtedly remains below the houses to-day, which are largely built upon it as upon the securest of foundations.

## POLE FAKER OF LONG AGO

It is told of a titled Englishman that when his son explained his folly in going down a coal mine by saying that he spoiled his clothes so as to be able to say that he had performed the feat, replied: "Why did you say that you had been down the mine and did not go?" This method appears to have been followed by one James Knox de Boldue, a monk, who, according to a Paris contemporary, says the Army and Navy Journal, made his polar voyage in 1665. This is the pole as described by this Boldue:

"At the pole one finds the place where all the waves of the sea concentrate to disappear in the same whirlpool. Four great islands surround this precipice, separated by four great canals, succeeding which are the divided seas. An enormous rock, quite black, and 23 miles in circumference, marks the pole itself.

"The unfortunate ships which venture into these latitudes are immediately lost, if they are not assisted by favorable winds."

The Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore, India, suggests that the account of Boldue may be found in the "Teutsche Acta Eruditorum" (1712)

## Practical Fashions

### LADIES' DRESSING SACK.



Paris Pattern No. 2420. All Seams Allowed.—Flowered dimity or one of the new dot embroidered Swiss materials is pretty and cool looking and make up into delightful little dressing sacks. The fullness of the front of the one illustrated is caught into narrow tucks, stitched to nearly the bust line; those in the back being stitched to the waist line and forming a box-plait. The belt, trimming band and cuffs are of a contrasting material and shade, and the sack may be developed with good effect in any material from lawn to silk. The pattern is in four sizes—32, 36, 40 and 44 inches bust measure. For 36 bust the dressing sack requires 3 1/4 yards of material 27 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards 36 inches wide, or two yards 42 inches wide; as illustrated, one yard of contrasting material 20 inches wide.

To procure this pattern send 10 cents to "Pattern Department," of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

### BOYS' RUSSIAN SUIT.



Paris Pattern No. 3194. All Seams Allowed.—When planning the summer outfit for the tiny son be sure to include in it several Russian suits of linen, duck, cotton, poplin, Bedford cord or gingham, with one or two of cloth or flannel for cold days, for certainly no more becoming costumes are to be found, and none that is so comfortable to the small wearer. The pictured suit consists of a front-closing blouse, with fancy panel facing front and back and a detachable Eton collar, and knickerbockers fitted on the hips by darts and having the fullness at the knees adjusted by rubber-run casings. The pattern is cut in four sizes, two to five years. For a boy of three years the suit requires 2 1/4 yards of material 36 inches wide, with one-half yard of white linen 18 inches wide or wider for the Eton collar, and 3/4 yards of braid to trim.

To procure this pattern send 10 cents to "Pattern Department," of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

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TOWN.....  
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The horseshoe used to keep at bay Disasters dire.  
What is the proper charm to-day—An auto tire!

Golden Silence.  
One of the children in the Lysander John Appleton family is named Vassar for the college from which their mother was graduated. Mrs. Appleton says: "He has went," and uses many other strange expressions for a Vassar graduate, but she is a Woman, and none dare say a word of doubt.—Aitchison (Kan. Globe).

It Does Seem So.  
Alas and alack,  
The more a man tries,  
The more his life seems to be  
A tissue of lies!

It's No Wonder.  
Aurora.—Why are commuters at ways so thin?  
Borealls.—Probably because they train down every day.—Yale Record.

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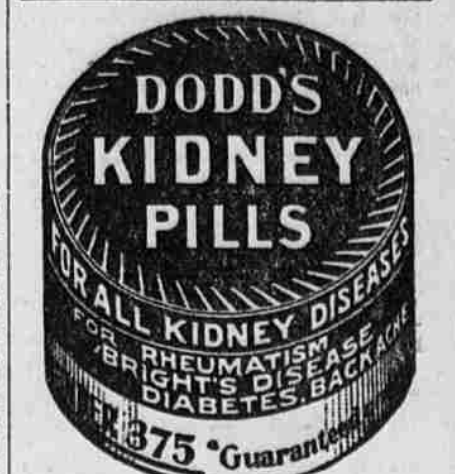
Bear your own burdens first, after that help to carry those of other people.—George Washington.

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## WESTERN CANADA

What Governor Deneen, of Illinois, Says About It:

Governor Deneen, of Illinois, owns a section of land in Saskatchewan, Canada. He has said in an interview:

"As an American I am delighted to see the remarkable growth of Western Canada. Our people are looking across the boundary in thousands, and I have not yet met one who admitted he had made a mistake. They are all doing well. There is scarcely a community in the Middle West where the States that are not a representative in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta."

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